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,AGS: SHUM, PK

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN BONKER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. CHAIRMAN BONKER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WROTE SECRETARY HAIG ON APRIL 2 CONCERNING THE ARRESTS BY THE GOP OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS EARLIER THIS YEAR. A COPY OF THE LETTER WAS POUCHED TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS. WE ARE REPEATING THE TEXT OF THE LETTER BELOW. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY COMMENTS ABOUT THE FACTS AS STATED IN THE LETTER OR ANY SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE EMBASSY MAY WISH TO OFFER CONCERNING A REPLY TO THE CHAIRMAN.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST CONCERN ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF ARRESTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGHOUT PAKISTAN SINCE FEBRUARY 1982. THESE ARRESTS HAVE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT MARCH AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRESTED AMOUNTS TO 4,142. PRESIDENT ZIA HAS STATED THAT 2,132 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN

DETAINED.

OPPOSITION LEADERS WITHIN PAKISTAN CLAIM THAT THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS AMOUNT TO ABOUT 10,000 AND INDICATE THAT 99 PERCENT WERE WORKERS FROM THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY. FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS WARNED THESE LEADERS THAT THEIR AGITATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY VIOLATES MARTIAL LAW, AN OFFENSE PUNISHABLE BY INDEFINITE IMPRISONMENT.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALSO REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN POLITICIANS, JOURNALISTS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR REARRESTED SINCE MID-MARCH. LEADERS SUCH AS HAJI GHULAM AHMAD BILLOUR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY; MERAJ MOHAMMED KHAN; FATEHYAB ALI KHAN OF THE MAZDOUR KISSAN PARTY; AID IRSHAD RAO, PUBLISHER OF AL-FATAH AND HIS ASSISTANT EDITOR, WAHID BASHIR.

State Dept. review completed

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ALL THE FOREGOING ONLY CONFIRMS WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR THE PAST YEAR ABOUT THE PAKISTANI REGIME, THAT IT IS A CONSISTENT AND GROSS VIOLATOR OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS ADMINISTRATION, THROUGH ITS MASSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, SHOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATING THE UNITED STATES WITH SUCH REGIMES.

SURELY PAKISTAN IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE ADMINISTRATION BEFRIENDS SUCH REGIMES AND INSTEAD OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IMPROVING, THE RECORD GOES FROM BAD TO WORSE.

THE REPORTS OF MANY THOUSANDS OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS, DETENTIONS, AND IMPRISONMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF MARTIAL LAW CLEARLY PUTS PAKISTAN IN THE CATEGORY OF A GROSS VIOLATOR OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS. THEREFORE, CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IS IN VIOLATION OF SECTIONS 116 AND 502(B) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AS AMENDED.

SINCERELY YOURS,

DON BONKER, CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

END TEXT. HAIG  
END OF MESSAGE

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